

## Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04196 121001Z

11-C  
ACTION PER-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 W  
----- 013308  
R 120808Z JUN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 599

UNCLAS SEOUL 4196

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: APER (CHRISTENSON, RICHARD A. FSO-6)  
SUBJECT: LANGUAGE TRAINING

REF: (A) STATE 116351 (B) SEOUL 4195

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FOR ASSIGNING CHRISTENSON TO ADVANCED KOREAN LANGUAGE TRAINING AT KOREA LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AND REGRETS THAT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REFUSES TOPAGREE TO SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENT TO COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DIVISION. EMBASSY OF OPINION THAT COMMERCE TAKES A SOMEWHAT NARROW VIEW OF THE QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO FILL A C&I POSITION IN REJECTING ASSIGNMENT, EVEN FOR ONE YEAR, OF WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST OFFICER TO WORK IN ECON/ COMMERCIAL SECTIONS IN SEOUL WHO SPEAKS KOREAN AT A WORKING LEVEL (ABOVE A2/2) AND WHO AMB/DCM REGARD AS HAVING IMPRESSIVE POTENTIAL.

2. THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IN ASSIGNING CHRISTENSON TO ADVANCED LANGUAGE TRAINING DURING THIS TOUR IS TO ENABLE HIM TO REACH A MENAINGFUL 4/4 LEVEL. AS TESTED BY THE RLS, HE IS FUNCTIONALLY FLUENT WITHIN A NARROW RANGE, BUT REQUIRES FURTHER TRAINING TO EXPAND THAT RANGE TO WELL-ROUNDED PROFESSIONAL FLUENCY. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT HE BE ASSIGNED TO KLI FOR 6 MONTHS OF FULL-TIME TRAINING AND THEN RETURN TO CONSULAR SECTION FOR ROTATION INTO A NINE MONTH ASSIGNMENT, SEVEN MONTHS OF WHICH HE WILL BE ROTATED INTO CENTRAL COMPLEMENT/ AMBASSADOR'S STAFF AIDE POSITION. AT THE END OF THIS NINE MONTHS, 11/76, CHRISTENSON WILL HAVE COMPLETED EXACTLY A THREE YEAR TOUR IN SEOUL. CHRISTENSON'S SIX MONTHS AT KLI COULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTENDED TO SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS, OR POSSIBLY SUPPLEMENTED BY TWO HOUR OF CLASS PER DAY AFTER COMPLETION OF FULL TIME TRAINING, DEPENDING UPON HIS PROGRESS IN LANGUAGE TRAINING.

3. WE FEEL THE ABOVE PROPOSAL WOULD MEET BASIC OBJECTIVES  
DISCUSSED IN PREVIOUS CABLES AND ENABLE CHRISTENSON TO  
COMPLETE A WELL ROUNDED TOUR HERE. ASSIGNMENT TO CENTRAL  
COMPLEMENT POSITION WOULD INVOLVE HIM IN SPECIAL PROJECTS  
FORMULATED BY AMBASSADOR/DCM, PROJECTS WHICH WOULD HONE HIS  
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND ENABLE HIM TO CONSOLIDATE LANGUAGE  
GAINS MADE DURING KLI ASSIGNMENT. RETURN TO CONSULAR SECTION  
WITHOUT ROTATION TO AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE WOULD BE INEFFICIENT  
USE OF AUGMENTED LANGUAGE FACILITY AND WOULD OFFER CHRISTENSON  
LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.  
SNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

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**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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